

Anglican Parish of Amberley



*Holy Innocents
Church Street, Amberley*



*St Paul's
Brighton Street, Leithfield*

Easter 2015 WHAM ***parish quarterly newsletter***

So, what's the big deal about Easter?

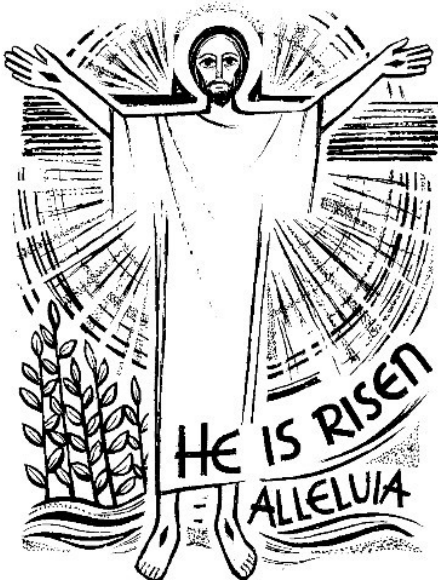
Well, there's one obvious answer – chocolate.

A survey has found that most children under 12 eat an average of eight chocolate eggs (interestingly the equivalent of one kilo of sugar) every Easter, prompting the survey to describe Easter as “becoming nothing more than a chocolate-gorging feast.” But there is a far deeper significance to our Easter eggs that really *is* worth celebrating.

Easter is the celebration of new life. Originally, eggs and bunnies were symbols of the renewal and fertility of spring, following the harsh winter – even though confusingly we celebrate Easter in our part of the world during autumn. Rabbits and hares symbolised fertility and new birth. Eggs were stained and decorated.

Christians adopted this spring festival to celebrate the new life we find in Christ Jesus. The Son of God was put to death, but miraculously came back to life. His resurrection was a re-creation *not* a resuscitation. He rose from death to a new kind of eternal life, given by God.

Of course, we all die, but we have hope that in death, we may become fully alive with Christ. Not as disembodied spirits, but as our real healed and whole selves. This isn't just some distant hope for the future, however. We follow Jesus because He



makes our lives so much better, right now! Through his Holy Spirit, Jesus can heal our hurts, teach us new ways of living and help us to be the people we are meant to be. Jesus actually said, “I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

Chocolate eggs and bunnies are great fun, but they are not the point. They do however symbolise the real celebration of Easter – the new, full and meaningful life we find when we choose to follow Jesus.

Rev'd Lynnette Lightfoot

Vestry Report

The Parish AGM was held on Sunday, 8 March. The following appointments were made at the meeting:

- People's Warden – Karen Croft
- Vestry – Sue Atkinson and Colin Teale.

Members of Vestry for 2015/16 are:

- Ven. Lynnette Lightfoot (Priest-in-Charge)
- Karen Croft (People's Warden)
- John Field Dodgson (Bishop's Warden)
- Patricia Gardner (Administrator)
- Gillian Trewinnard (Lay Synod Representative)
- Sue Atkinson and Colin Teale

Treasurer Colin Teale reported at the AGM that we have had another successful year fundraising, with more than \$6,000 now in the fund to help meet the cost of repairs to the stained-glass windows in Holy Innocents Church. The Church Property Trustees have been approached to establish when repair work might begin.

Repairs and maintenance work on Holy Innocents is ongoing. Painting the top half of the church tower is imminent and replacing rotten timber window ledges is another urgent task which needs to be done.

The AGM was advised that, in February, the Diocesan Standing Committee was formally approached requesting the sale of Church property in Sefton. An earlier request in 2014 had been “held over” until higher priority items had been attended to. To date, there has been no response to our latest request. This is also being followed up with the Diocese.

John Field-Dodgson, Bishop's Warden and Vestry Chair

News and Notices

Pastoral Care team: Next meeting Tues 26th May, 2pm, Parish Hall. All welcome.

Messy Church: Next time - **Sunday 31st June, 4.15pm.** All Welcome. We would love to see more parishioners come along and 'be the church' for the Messy Church families. Messy Church: *Creative, Celebrating Church for Everyone.*

Maundy Thursday Meal and Service, 6pm

(...at Holy Innocents, with guests including parishioners from Woodend-Pegasus. Please let Pat C know if you intend to come for the meal.)

The Latin words for "A new commandment I give you", "mandatum novum do vobis", are the origin of the name of Maundy Thursday.

First of all, on Thursday evening we will gather to celebrate the Passover recalling the great traditions of our faith. We celebrate this Seder meal as a family of God's people, and we remember how Jesus once met with his disciples to share a similar meal. In so doing, he made this meal a symbol of his own life, death and resurrection.

We follow our meal with a Eucharist and re-enact the washing of the disciples' feet by the Lord. We will choose people from each Parish to participate in the foot-washing, which is a sign of reconciliation and service to others. It is traditional at the end of the Lord's Supper to strip the sanctuary of all adornment in anticipation of Good Friday.

Church newsletter bloopers

*The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy." *** Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door. *** Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow. *** The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.*



Visit **Anglican Parish of Amberley** on Facebook for photos, news and miscellaneous snippets. See our parish website: www.amberleyanglican.com for an up-to-date schedule of services, news, articles, and spiritual reflections.

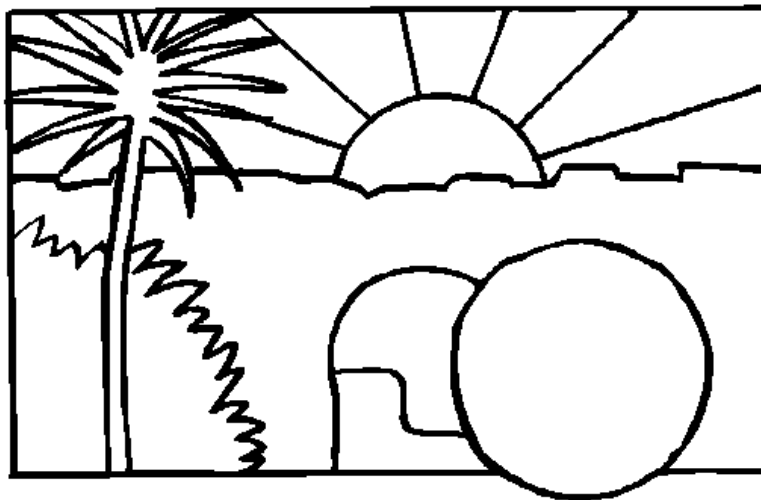
To book our well-heated Hall and Certified Food-Safe Kitchen, please ring Pat on 314 8272.



Anglican Parish Church Services

April 2015

- 2nd **6.00pm** Parish Hall & Holy Innocents,
Maundy Thursday Meal and Service
- 3rd 9.30am St Barnabas, Woodend,
Good Friday Meditation on the Stations of the Cross
- 5th 9.30am Holy Innocents,
Easter Day Holy Communion
- 12th 9.30am Holy Innocents,
Holy Communion, Commissioning of Vestry (tbc)
- 19th 9.30am St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Combined Presbyt./Anglican Morning Worship
5.30pm St Paul's, Evening Prayer
- 26th 9.30am St Paul's,
Holy Communion with Reserve Sacrament



Contacts: Priest in Charge: Reverend Lynnette Lightfoot, 03 313 8726
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